

IV. Remarks

The specification has been amended to include a cross reference to the priority applications.

Claims 1-20 are under consideration in the present application. Claims 7-10 and 18-20 have been amended from a formal standpoint to conform with the U.S. rules of practice and not for reasons relating to patentability. The filing fee has been calculated according to the above-amendments.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned if an interview would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Warren B. Kice
Registration No. 22,732

Date: 10/13/05

HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
901 Main Street, Suite 3100
Dallas, Texas 75202-5940
Telephone: 214-651-5634
Facsimile: 214-200-0853
File: 10287.74

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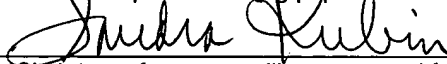
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